

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 40.1)

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Date of mailing (day/month/year)	17/06/2004
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International filing date (day/month/year)	30/01/2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
 03S1636P

International application No.
 PCT/JP2004/000959

Applicant
 CASIO COMPUTER CO., LTD.

1. This International Searching Authority

- (i) considers that there are 2 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

and it considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

- (ii) ☒ has carried out a partial international search (see Annex) ☐ will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:

1 - 8

- (iii) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid


2. The applicant is hereby invited, within the time limit indicated above, to pay the amount indicated below:

EUR 1.550,00 x 1 = EUR 1.550,00
 Fee per additional invention number of additional inventions total amount of additional fees

Or, _____ x _____ = _____

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest, i.e., a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

3. ☐ Claim(s) Nos. _____ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

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Authorized officer
 Matthew Davis

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-8

A wrist-worn communication apparatus comprising:

- a device,
- a band for wearing the device on a user's wrist,
- a speaker unit disposed on the band (claim 1) or on a support member (claim 5) or on a pivotable support member (claim 7), the speaker facing in a transverse direction of the band, and
- a microphone disposed on the band (claim 1) or on a support member (claim 5) or on a pivotable support member (claim 7), the microphone being placed as to face in a direction perpendicular to a surface of the band.

2. Claims: 9-15

A wrist-worn communication apparatus comprising:

- a device,
- a band for wearing the device on a user's wrist,
- a communication unit having a key-in unit provided on an opposite side of the user's wrist, on which the device is worn,
- a hinged lid comprising a display provided thereon,
- a speaker unit provided on the lid on the opposite side of the display unit from the hinge,
- a microphone unit provided on the opposite side of the key unit from the hinge (claim 9) or at a position remote from the speaker unit (claim 12).

It is therefore considered that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 PCT).

The only features common to all the independent claims are represented by:

A wrist-worn communication apparatus comprising:

- a device,
- a band for wearing the device on a user's wrist,

- a speaker unit, and
- a microphone unit.

These features are disclosed by document D1:EP-A-572252 (see the relevant passages in the International Search Report) and therefore do not represent any contribution to the prior art. Therefore they cannot be considered as "special technical features" for the purpose of Rule 13.2 PCT. These features have the technical effect that a communication apparatus is provided, which allows the transmission/reception of sound and that can be carried on a user's wrist.

The remaining features are not the same or corresponding, that is they have different technical effects and are related to different technical problems.

In fact the special technical features of group 1 (the speaker facing in a transverse direction of the band and the microphone facing a perpendicular direction of the band) solve the technical problem of how to use the directivity characteristic of the speaker and the microphone. In the first group of invention the problem is solved by the particular orientation of the speaker and the microphone.

The special technical features of group 2 (a communication unit having a key-in unit provided on an opposite side of the user's wrist, on which the device is worn, a hinged lid where a display and a speaker are provided, the speaker being on the opposite side of the display from the hinge, and the microphone being placed on the opposite side of the key-in unit from the hinge or at a position remote from the speaker) solve the problem of how to provide a wrist-watch communication apparatus that is more compact and more comfortable to use than the devices known from the prior art. The problem is solved by providing the communication unit with the microphone and a hinged lid with the speaker, on the opposite side of the user's wrist, the microphone and speaker being placed sufficiently apart from each other. In this way a user is able to carry out a communication without unnaturally bending his/her arm.

Thus the two groups of inventions do not have any special technical features in common, nor they have any corresponding special technical features as meant by rule 13.2 PCT as they relate to different technical problems having two different solutions. Hence Rule 13.1 PCT is not satisfied and the application contains two inventions, which are not linked by a single inventive concept.

1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos. 1-8
2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.
3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.
4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 572 252 A (AMERICAN TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH) 1 December 1993 (1993-12-01) abstract column 2, line 44 -column 4, line 42	7,8
Y	figures 1-3,6,7	1-6
Y	--- US 6 311 071 B1 (ANDERSON MARLYN J ET AL) 30 October 2001 (2001-10-30) column 6, line 47 - line 67 figures 2,4	1-6
A	--- EP 0 684 704 A (AT & T CORP) 29 November 1995 (1995-11-29) abstract column 2, line 42 -column 3, line 43 figures 1-4	1-8
A	--- WO 98/05148 A (NAKATANI KOICHIRO ;NIHON VELBON SEIKI KOGYO (JP)) 5 February 1998 (1998-02-05) cited in the application abstract figures 1-3	1-8

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Patent Family Annex

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/JP2004/000959

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0572252	A	01-12-1993	US 5239521 A	24-08-1993
			DE 69321033 D1	22-10-1998
			DE 69321033 T2	04-03-1999
			EP 0572252 A1	01-12-1993
			JP 6113000 A	22-04-1994

US 6311071	B1	30-10-2001	US 6091965 A	18-07-2000
			US 5819183 A	06-10-1998
			AU 2863195 A	15-01-1996
			CA 2186264 A1	28-12-1995
			WO 9535622 A1	28-12-1995

EP 0684704	A	29-11-1995	US 5564082 A	08-10-1996
			EP 0684704 A2	29-11-1995
			JP 7321689 A	08-12-1995

WO 9805148	A	05-02-1998	AU 3358297 A	20-02-1998
			WO 9805148 A1	05-02-1998
			JP 2993742 B2	27-12-1999
			TW 426277 Y	11-03-2001
